

GOSSIP OF THE STAGE.

NOTES OF THE PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Three companies have given 800 performances of "The College Widow" this season.

Commercial travelers all agree that "a good show town" is the best recommendation any city can have.

Valerie Bergere is now rehearsing "The Morning After," a new play by Willis Steel, and is to bring it out in Denver next month.

"The Spoilers" has been put on the shelf for the rest of the season at least. It may be put in the popular-priced theaters next season.

Arrangements have been made for Blanche Walsh to play an eight weeks' engagement in San Francisco at the new Van Ness Theater.

Stella Hammerstein, the daughter of Oscar Hammerstein, sailed for London last week, to join one of George Edwards' companies.

James K. Hackett has obtained an option on "La Ruissau," by Pierre Wolff, which was produced at the Vaudeville Theater, Paris, on March 21.

E. S. Willard was presented with a silver loving cup by the members of his company at Cleveland on April 4. Henry Cane made the presentation speech.

Hortense Nielsen, a sister of Alice Nielsen, has acquired the rights of "Mrs. Dane's Defense," and will tour under the direction of Charles A. Quintard.

Frederic Thompson and his wife, who was Mabel Tulliver, has moved to Connaught Island, Luna Park, for the summer. Mr. Thompson is to manage the big enterprise alone this season.

Virginia Harned is to play the title role in the forthcoming production of "Anna Karenina." Ann Warrington, who has been in the support of Henrietta Crossman, is to be in the cast.

James K. Hackett has an option on the American rights to the French play, "Le Ruissau," by Pierre Wolff, author of the "Secret of Polichinello," which Mr. Hackett brought out three years ago.

Washington is captive in the hands of the problem play this week. "Man and Superman," "The Hypocrites," and "The Kreutzer Sonata," where can players locate a good old family drama?

Harry Blosson has not been able to complete the play he is writing for Crystal Herne, so Miss Herne is to have the leading role in Charles Klein's new play, which has been named, "The Steplchild."

Louis James says that he is going to be seen as both the Dromios in "The Comedy of Errors" next season. This comedy has not been seen in this country since the late Stuart Robson played it.

Richard Mansfield is slowly recovering from his recent illness and is now able to take nourishment. His physicians hope he will be well enough to go abroad the first week in May, as planned before he was taken sick.

William H. Ripley, manager of the New National Theater, who has been confined to his home by illness, is about the theater again, looking much improved. Mr. Ripley is said to have just escaped an attack of typhoid fever.

Charles A. Stevenson, who has been the leading man in Mrs. Leslie Carter's company, left that organization last week and is now with Olga Nethersole. He will play the leading male roles in some of the dramas in her repertoire.

Thomas Jefferson will appear at the New National Theater the week beginning Monday, May 6, in a revival of his father's old success, "Rip Van Winkle." A special children's matinee will be a feature of the engagement here.

Walker Whiteside and his company went to Deadwood, S. Dak., last week to conduct rehearsals of the new play, "The Magic Melody," with which they will constitute a tour of the principal Pacific Coast cities, closing in Denver in June.

Maude Raymond had a busy time last week in New York. She sang in the first act of "The Social Whirl" at one theater, and then got a cab and rushed to the Casino, where she played her part in the second act of "The White Hen."

Arthur Boucher, one of the best-known English actors, is to visit this country next season under the management of Charles Frohman. He is to be seen in Gladys Unger's play, "Mr. Sheridan," which has made quite a hit in London.

Miss Jessie Millard, playing one of the leading roles in "The Hypocrites," was formerly leading lady of the old Empire Theater stock company, New York. She was the actress who created the part of Lady Alay in "Lord and Lady Alay."

Alda Cortelyou, who was a member of the Hunter-Bradford company in this city last summer, has replaced Julie Opp in the leading feminine role of "The Squaw Man." Miss Opp was obliged to retire from her husband's company because of illness.

Ethel Barrymore's role in the revival of "His Excellency the Governor" is that of a charming society butterfly, in which her talent for light, graceful comedy is shown to excellent advantage. Her brother, John Barrymore, is a member of the supporting company.

Mr. John Nesbitt, the English actor, brought to this country by Olga Nethersole, has been compelled to leave for England owing to ill-health. His place in Miss Nethersole's company has been taken by Charles Stevenson, late leading man for Mrs. Leslie Carter.

Lawrence D'Orray, who closed his season in the "Embassy Ball" in Philadelphia recently, was confined to his apartments at the Hotel Navarre, New York, all last week, with neuritis, following a severe attack of grip. As soon as he is convalescent, he plans to sail for England to make his arrangements for next season.

Henry Clay Barnabee, the old-time Bostonian comedian, is reported to be endeavoring an appearance in Washington with the Aborn Opera Company for the opening production of "Robt Hood" at the New National Theater. Other old Bostonian favorites, including Charles J. Frohman, are also arranging to appear for the opening week.

It is announced that through the beneficence and energy of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Mansfield, the Home for Blind Babies in Brooklyn will not be obliged to close its charitable doors as feared. Mrs. Cynthia Alden, the president of the Sunshine

Society, says that Mr. Mansfield's example and energy have sent generous assistance to this institution.

Gertrude Quinlan, who has been playing the comedy role of Flora Wiggins for three seasons in "The College Widow," will sail for Paris next week for a long rest and vacation. Miss Quinlan will create another part next year in a new play to be produced by Henry W. Savage.

Henry W. Savage arrived in Vienna last week and attended a performance of "Die Lustige Witwe," the German musical comedy that has been running two years. An English version of this successful composition will be introduced in this country next season by Mr. Savage.

David Belasco's new theater, the Stuyvesant, in Forty-fourth street, New York, is to be opened about the middle of September. In the future this will be the home theater of the Belasco stars. The opening attraction will be a new play that is now being written for David Warfield.

Max Figman's first starring tour under the direction of John Cort will terminate on April 20, at Plainfield, N. J. During the early part of next season, Mr. Figman will appear in "The Man on the Box," prior to his New York appearance in a new comedy by the same author.

Zelda Sears, who has been playing in Clyde Fitch's comedy, "The Truth," and Harold Heaton, who has been in the support of Lawrence D'Orray, are to begin a tour in vaudeville, under the direction of Gustav Frohman. They will present a sketch by Louis de Courcy, entitled "The Music Lesson."

J. D. Leffingwell, one of the best known newspaper men in the theatrical business, was in Washington the past week attending to the preliminary arrangements for the engagement of "The Hypocrites." Mr. Leffingwell is a prominent member of the Frars, the press agents' club of New York.

William Gillette is to have a new play next year, which will please about everyone outside of Boston. The would-be Athens was the only city in the country which went mad over "Clarice." Marie Dora is not to be Gillette's leading woman next fall, but will be starred in the current London success, "The Morals of Marcus."

Mme. Modjeska, with her husband, the Count Bozenta, have been in New York for a fortnight attending plays and otherwise enjoying themselves. Mme. Modjeska reassures her farewell to the New York public as an actress. She is now engaged in writing her memoirs. She says English fetters her thought, and she is writing in Polish, to be translated later.

When Toby Claude makes her reappearance in vaudeville next week at Keeney's Theater in Brooklyn, she will present a one-act version of "Under Two Flags," made for her by Margaret Mayo. Miss Claude will appear as Cigarette, and Miss Mayo has arranged the play so that the tiny comedienne will occupy the stage during almost the entire performance. A special setting has been patented, and the act will be put on pretentiously.

How many will agree with George Bernard Shaw, the author of "Man and Superman," in which Robert Loraine is the star, in his views, as expressed upon the subject of women, embodied in the following paragraph? The one speaking is John Tanner, the revolutionist, played by Mr. Loraine, directing his conversation to a young artist, who is in love with the girl who is pursuing Tanner himself: "The true artist will let his wife starve, his children go barefoot, his mother drudge for his living at seventy, sooner than work at anything but his art. To women he is half vivisection, half vampire. He gets into intimate relations with them to study them, to strip the mask of convention from them, to surprise their innermost secrets, knowing that they have the power to rouse his deepest creative energies, to rescue him from his cold reason, to make him see visions, and dream dreams; to inspire him, as he calls it. He persuades women that they may do this for their own purpose, while he really means them to do it for his. He steals the mother's milk and blackens it to make printer's ink to scoff at her and glorify ideal women with. He pretends to speak the language of love, and fosters that which belongs of right to her children. Since marriage began, the great artist has been known as a bad husband. But he is worse. He is a child robber, a blood-sucker, a lyceum thief, and a cheat. Perish the race and with it a thousand more, if only the sacrifice of them enable him to act Hamlet better, to paint a finer picture, to write a deeper poem, a greater play, a grander philosophy. Of all human struggles, there is none so glorious and remorseless as the struggle between the artist man and the mother woman. Which shall use up the other? That is the issue between them. And it is all the grander, because in our romanticist cant, they love each other."

Actor's Affections. "If growing affections are not checked in time they will become mannerisms that frequently are offensive." Jessie Millard, who was when with the famous Empire Theater stock company, in New York, at the time of "Mrs. Dane's Defense," and who has since played a big round of leading women's parts, and starred a couple of times, has some very positive ideas on this subject, for she believes that affection should be avoided above all things, and that truth should at all times be cultivated. Miss Millard regards the art of acting as a living, breathing art, and when the actor undertakes to form a part of the picture, which the author has drawn, after much careful study from life, that the task should not be undertaken either lightly or flippantly, but that the player should devote wholeheartedness in making the picture perfect. No matter how small the part, it should be played as carefully as though it were the stellar role. "How can an actor," says Miss Millard, "treat lightly a profession which comprises all the arts and all the professions? The player is nowadays called upon to depict every phase of life. Were he called upon to portray his own character, the author would have probably written the part in, but the author can only put the words into the player's mouth, and it is the duty of the player to give those words meaning, to place before the audience as truthfully and as artistically as possible the character that the author has conceived. And how can this be done if we ourselves are full of affection and mannerism?"

One Explanation. From the Baltimore Sun. Maybe Col. John T. Graves is suffering from that recent blow he received on the head.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Next week Chase's will offer eight attractions of high rank in the polite vaudeville world, the list embracing the Military Overture and the Girl with the Baton, the Ellmore Sisters, the Zazzell-Vernon Royal Vaudeville Company, Sears, the Illusionist; Harry B. Lester, Terry and Elmer, Grace Childers, and the comic motion pictures of two subjects. The advance sale of reserved seats opens to-morrow.

At the Columbia Theater next Sunday will appear a musical organization, the "Kilties Band," who will give two performances, the afternoon concert at 3.30. This band is composed of musicians selected from the leading regiments of the Dominion of Canada, and appears at each concert in the picturesque and unique dress of the Scotch Highlanders. Their programmes are noted for their varied interest, both classic and popular compositions being rendered. The band numbers forty-five men, and includes a fine vocal choir and a number of Scotch pipers and bagpipers. The drum major, Donald MacCormack, stands over seven feet in his stockings.

Among the interesting bookings announced as coming to the Belasco Theater shortly may be mentioned the engagement of De Wolf Hopper, who returns for the week of April 23 in a big revival of the ever popular "Wang," with the same cast which was recently seen here in his support, including Miss Marguerite Clark. For the week of May 6 the Joe Weber Company will present "Dream City," with such famous players as Lillian Blauvelt, Otis Harlan, Madeline Marshall, Cecilia Loftus, Maurice Farkas, William Hodge, and Joe Weber. This will be the biggest musical organization of the kind ever seen in Washington. The following week the summer season will be inaugurated by the Edwin Arden Stock Company, the opening day to be announced later.

Ezra Kendall, in a typical Kendall comedy, will bring the attraction to the Columbia Theater the week of April 22. Mr. Kendall will again appear in Washington in a vehicle provided by Herbert Hall Winslow, who was the author of his previous offering, "The Vinegar Buyer." The comedy is laid in an Indiana health resort, and it is said to be filled with quaint characters, which prove effective foils for Mr. Kendall, besides adding a potential comedy element. Mr. Kendall is again the Kendall of short dialogue and monologue, quick in his repartee, unique in his philosophy, and pertinent in his epigrams. He has not discarded the dress in which he has so often been pictured, and the second acts finds him wearing a tall hat of ancient pattern, the long frock coat and trousers of weird cut.

More than ordinary interest is being displayed in the forthcoming engagement at the New National Theater, beginning Monday evening, April 23, of the musical comedy by Charles Frohman, "Noah's Ark." The very title of this piece gives hint of something new and interesting in stage offerings, and it takes no great stretch of the imagination to people the theme with dozens of the attractive figures of childhood days—Noah, the ark, the animals, Noah's sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth, and even their wives. It is said that Mrs. Kummer, with the license allowed to dramatists, has introduced many other characters into the story, among them one "Bill," the bo'san of the ark, who has all the work to do and will be impersonated by the well-known comedian, Harry Bulger, who has already been identified in a most important way with some of the leading musical successes of recent times, including "The Sleeping Beauty and the Beast," "Woodland," "The Man from Now," and others quite as notable.

Olga Nethersole will pay Washington her annual visit next week, and will present at the National Theater four plays from her repertoire. In one of them—her own dramatization of "Adrienne Lecouvreur"—she has never been seen here. To fit the elegant period in French history in which Mlle. Lecouvreur flourished, Miss Nethersole has provided an elaborate and expensive production. To make sure that it should be historically correct Miss Nethersole spent a number of weeks in Paris, where she had access to the archives of the Comedie Francaise, gathering data as to costume, furniture, and art objects used by the higher classes of the French people in 1720-40. The information she gained by these studies has been put into her splendid production for this notable play. "Adrienne Lecouvreur" will probably prove the sensation of Miss Nethersole's forthcoming engagement here. The repertoire for the week will be as follows: On Monday, Tuesday evening and Saturday evenings and at the Saturday matinee, Clyde Fitch's dramatization of Daudet's story of "Sapho," which was made especially for Miss Nethersole ten years since. On Tuesday evening she will present Arthur W. Pinero's social problem play, "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray." Pinero announced quite recently that when he wrote the part of Paula Tanqueray he had Olga Nethersole in view as the artist who would play it, and that her conception of the role was his ideal. At the Wednesday matinee Miss Nethersole will appear as Marguerite Gauthier in Alexander Dumas' great emotional play, "Camille." On Wednesday evening the bill will be "Adrienne Lecouvreur." Miss Nethersole will be supported by Frank Mills and her London company. Mr. Charles A. Stevenson is also a member of Miss Nethersole's fine organization, and will be seen here in prominent parts.

Shakespeare's Birthday Performance. On Shakespeare's birthday, Tuesday evening, April 23, at the New Willard ballroom, a company of players from the Robert Hickman School of Acting will give a performance of scenes from Shakespeare, including an hour's version of "Twelfth Night," especially arranged by Mr. Hickman for the occasion, and by Mr. Hickman for the occasion, and scenes from "As You Like It." The performance will be given on a specially erected Elizabethan stage and after the manner of the earlier performances of Shakespeare's plays. A short memorial address will be read, and the educational institutions of the city will be represented as at last year's performance. The cast will be as follows: Martell Willard, Eugene Coulton, Le Roy Luckenbill, Dennis Connell, Cyrus D. Wood, Cecil Lewis, Margaret Arnold, Fanny Isham, Besse Chase, Edna Phillips, Claire Fuller, and Maude Belle Rice.

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Matinees Wednesday and Saturday at 2:15

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Jessie Millard, Leslie Faber, Doris Keane, Richard Bennett, Viva Birkett, J. H. Barnes, Helen Tracy, John Glendenning, Grace Hadsell, Arthur Lewis, Louise Reed, W. H. Denny, and many others.

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E. J. CONNELLY

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"I would like to play in that."—David Warfield.

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HAL MERRITT

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Most Unusual Musical Act Ever Presented.

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AMUSEMENTS.

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SYDNEY LLOYD WRIGHTSON, Director. ASSISTED BY MR. GEORGE HAMLIN, The Noted Tenor, and Other Soloists.

D. A. R. Continental Hall,

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In a miscellaneous programme, including the EMBASSY BALL, THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING, THE "HALLELUJAH CHORUS" from the "Messiah," and the "HYMN OF PRAISE."

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40 Famous Fire Fighters. Full particulars in future advertisements.

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Songs and Stories of the South

Befo' an' Aftah de Wah.

MARGARET BELL CO.

Introducing Miss Bell in her own original impersonation of "OLD BLACK JOE" and "UNCLE ISRAEL." Fifty Southern Melodies. Beautifully Illustrated with Pictures, Songs and Music of Dixie Land. Seats on sale. Admission, 75c, 50c, 25c.

AMUSEMENTS.

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AMERICAN LEAGUE PARK, 7th and Florida Ave.

2:45-TO-MORROW-2:45

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I SAW YOUR AD IN THE HERALD

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House and Lot at 1003 Irving St. n.w., Deeded to the Masonic Fair.

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TO BE GIVEN AWAY:

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